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MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TWELFTH ANGUILLA
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 28th DECEMBER 2020 AT 10.00 AM

- PRESENT: His Excellency the Governor, Mr Timothy Foy, OBE
The Honourable Deputy Governor, Mr Perin Bradley
The Honourable Premier and Minister for Finance and Health,
Dr Ellis Webster
The Honourable Minister for Social Development, Cultural Affairs,
Youth Affairs, Gender Affairs, Education and Library Services,
Ms Dee-Ann Kentish-Rogers
The Honourable Minister for Infrastructure, Communications,
Utilities, Housing and Tourism, Mr Haydn Hughes
The Honourable Minister for Economic Development, Commerce,
Information Technology, Environment and Natural Resources,
Mr Kyle Hodge
The Honourable Attorney General (acting), Ms Erica Edwards
Clerk to Executive Council, Mrs Angela Hughes
- IN ATTENDANCE: Hon Parliamentary Secretary for Economic Development,
Mrs Quincia Gumbs-Marie
Hon Special Ministerial Assistant to the Hon Minister for Social
Development/Education, Mr Merrick Richardson
Financial Specialist, Mr Stephen Turnbull
PS, Finance, Mrs Kathleen Rogers
PS, MICUHT, Mr Karim Hodge
Principal Assistant Secretary, Ms Marisa Harding-Hodge
- ABSENT: The Honourable Attorney General, Mr Dwight Horsford

EX MIN 20/534

2021 WORK PLAN AND BUDGET – WCA

Hon Parliamentary Secretary for Economic Development, Hon Special Ministerial Assistant to the Hon Minister for Social Development/ Education and Financial Specialist remained. The following persons joined the meeting:

Kennedy W. Hodge, Chairman and Member
Lorna Richardson, Acting CEO WCA
Tericia Liburd, Member
Jennifer Gaskin, Finance Manager
Kahlea James, Water Engineer

Water Corporation of Anguilla

The WCA Board briefed Council on how it intends to manage the forecasted unfunded operating deficits and balance the budget.

The Board states that the 2021 budget can be balanced by installing solar panels in order to reduce electricity costs, increasing the customer base through increased installations and changing the plant depreciation policy. The Board indicates that water production costs should decrease because the TSG plant was acquired. The presence of competition in the market also affects the ability to increase revenues, especially as the water bulk order system is not operational. The service provided is not of a high enough standard to justify increasing fees.

Council noted that:

- 1) this is the third deficit budget presented to Council;
- 2) the revised budget contains an unfunded operating deficit of EC\$27,000 after applying the EC\$1 million subvention included within the MTEFP;
- 3) the revenue estimate has increased by EC\$5 million for 2021 but it is not clear how this additional revenue will be received. It is still not possible to verify whether the predicted growth, revenue estimates and reduction in water production costs are accurate or reasonable. The concern is that the WCA will require a further subvention;

- 4) the electricity costs were reduced by almost EC\$1 million based on assumptions that require further analysis; and
- 5) costs can be reduced but the key factor is to set the water charges to an appropriate level.

Council then agreed that:

- 1) it was not in a position to agree this budget; and
- 2) the Board shall attend a Special Meeting of Executive Council on Monday 4th January 2021 to present a revised balanced budget that addresses the cost risks through increased water tariffs.

Action: PS, MICUHT; HON, MIN MICUHT

EX MIN 20/535

2021 WORK PLAN AND BUDGET – AASPA

Hon Parliamentary Secretary for Economic Development, Hon Special Ministerial Assistant to the Hon Minister for Social Development/ Education and Financial Specialist remained. The following persons joined the meeting:

CEO, Mr Sherman Williams
Chairman and Member, Mrs Cara Connor

Anguilla Air and Sea Ports Authority

The AASPA Board briefed Council on how it intends to manage the forecasted unfunded operating deficits and balance the budget.

Council noted that:

- 1) the unapproved budget contains an unfunded operating deficit of EC\$5.4 million and there was no provision within the MTEFP or 2021 estimates for a subvention to AASPA;
- 2) staffing costs must be reduced and overtime costs should be

controlled;

- 3) notwithstanding the unpredictability of passenger numbers for 2021 the Board is responsible for making the recommendations that will make AASPA profitable. There are opportunities to raise revenue by increasing dues for ferry boat passengers, increasing port fees, introducing stevedoring charges and using cubic measurements for tonnage dues. There is capacity to generate more revenue at Sandy Ground port; and
- 4) if a balanced budget is obtained for 2021, AASPA can work towards making a profit in 2022.

Council then agreed that:

- 1) it was not in a position to agree this budget; and
- 2) the Board shall undertake a fundamental review of the fees and costs structure to ensure a balanced budget for 2021, which must be approved by the Board. The budget should be submitted for review by Council at the Special Meeting of Executive Council on Monday 4th January 2021.

Action: PS, MICUHT; HON, MIN MICUHT

EX MIN 20/536

2021 WORK PLAN AND BUDGET – HAA

Hon Parliamentary Secretary for Economic Development, Hon Special Ministerial Assistant to the Hon Minister for Social Development/ Education and Financial Specialist remained.

Council:

- 1) noted that the outstanding queries with respect to the 2021 budget of the Health Authority of Anguilla had been resolved;
- 2) agreed the 2021 budget of the Health Authority of Anguilla; and

- 3) acknowledged that regular monitoring of the revenue fees increases and usage growth needs to be conducted and that the Board needs to take immediate actions if these deviate.

Action: PS, HLTH; HON, PREM

EX MIN 20/537

2021 BUDGET

Hon Parliamentary Secretary for Economic Development, Hon Special Ministerial Assistant to the Hon Minister for Social Development/ Education and Financial Specialist remained.

Council acknowledged that the risks associated with the projected statutory body deficits undermined the credibility of the Government's 2021 estimates. If the WCA and AASPA were not in a position to present balanced budgets, material adjustments would be required to the appropriations. These revised budgets needed to balance back to the 2021 MTEFP.

It was agreed that the WCA and AASPA would present their revised balanced budgets to Executive Council at a Special Meeting on Monday 4th January 2021 to avoid delays in assent to the Appropriation Act.

Action: PS, FIN; ACC, GEN; BD; HON, MIN FIN

EX MIN 20/538

EX MEM 20/273 EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES

Hon Parliamentary Secretary for Economic Development, Hon Special Ministerial Assistant to the Hon Minister for Social Development/ Education and Financial Specialist remained.

The Hon Premier briefed Council on the proposal to extend the unemployment assistance benefit given the ongoing health and economic crisis.

Council approved the extension of the temporary unemployment assistance for a further period of three months to expire on 31st March, 2021, continuing on the current terms:

- a) unemployed persons – up to EC\$1000 a month; and

- b) underemployed persons – the difference between EC\$1000 and the monthly salary; and all other terms and conditions of the assistance.

Action: PS, FIN; PS, SD; ACC, GEN; BD; HON, MIN FIN;
HON, MIN SD
